

# **Tiverton Town Council Landfill Subcommittee**

## **Regular Meeting Minutes: May 15, 2007**

### **I: Call to Order**

Chairman Wyman called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM at the Tiverton Town Hall.

Members present: A. Wyman (Chairman), T. Ramotowski, J. Fernandes, R. Hart, D. Wilbur, and D. Webster (Director of Public Works).

Members absent: G. Steckman.

### **II: Approval of Minutes**

#### **MOTION 1:**

Mr. Ramotowski made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2007 regular meeting as submitted. Mr. Wilbur seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed 6-0.

### **III: Additions/Changes/Acceptance of Agenda**

Mr. Ramotowski asked how much money had been included in the budget for the next fiscal year for the landfill closure account. Mr. Webster replied that \$400,000.00 had originally been requested, but by the end of the budget cycle, the amount had been reduced to the yearly minimum of approximately \$168,000.00. Mr. Ramotowski asked if the amount in the budget was the minimum amount allowed by the RI-DEM license for the landfill. Mr. Webster stated that he was unsure where the \$168,000.00 figure originally came from. It is not a part of the operating license from RI-DEM. Looking at past records, that amount of money had been appropriated each year for the closure account for at least a decade. Mr. Fernandes stated that the fund was opened in the early 1990s, and that \$168,000.00 was the original amount placed into the account. The figure has never been increased. Mr. Webster stated that he was unaware of a minimum yearly funding amount for the closure account, but RI-DEM would not be happy if the town stopped contributing to the account. The Pare report from last year recommended a significant increase in the yearly contribution, but next year's tight fiscal situation prevented that from happening. Chairman Wyman agreed that the closure account was underfunded, but suggested that there

might be other ways to obtain closure money – perhaps the landfill site could be sold for some other use once it was properly closed – a golf course, for example.

#### **IV: Public Input**

No members of the public were in attendance; therefore, there was no public input.

#### **V: Gray's Pond ACM - Completed**

Chairman Wyman asked if the Town had received all of the material that it was likely to receive from the dredging operations at Gray's Pond. Mr. Webster stated that the amount of incoming material had decreased significantly, but it had not completely stopped. Only one truck is being used to transport the material now, so only a few loads every so often are being received.

#### **VI: Landfill Traffic Counts Resumed 01 March 2007– Counts to Date**

Chairman Wyman noted that there had not been a significant change in traffic/landfill usage, judging by the traffic counts.

Mr. Ramotowski noted that during a recent visit to the landfill, the trash was being deposited immediately up the slope of the trash pile where the paved access road ends. The attendants are usually located now further into the landfill, near the recycling containers. Thus, with this particular location for the active portion of the trash pile, it is possible for someone who is not a Tiverton resident to dump trash and not get caught. Mr. Webster stated that the areas where the trash is dumped are selected by Pare to make the best use of available space without violating the license with regard to height limits.

Chairman Wyman stated that he saw two truckloads of tree stumps dumped at the brush pile. Mr. Webster stated that tree stumps are not allowed, so that should not have happened. The Town still need to rent a tub grinder to process the brush pile and turn it into wood chips that can be mixed with the cover material used on the slopes of the trash pile. Mr. Ramotowski asked if the DPW had ever explored the option of burning the material in the brush pile. Mr. Webster replied that burning the brush was not considered to be a viable option, because of the possibility that the burn could get out of control. The landfill's operating license forbids the burning of trash, and if a brush pile burn got into the trash, the license would be violated.

#### **VII: Renewal of Contract with Pare Corporation – Waiting for Proposal**

Mr. Webster stated that he had spoken with T. Thies of Pare this morning, and Pare is still in the process of getting its proposal together. Mr. Thies indicated that the proposal should be ready by the end of the week.

## **VIII: Alternate Cover Material Specification for Bidding**

Mr. Webster noted that the large amount of cover material the Town received from the Starwoods Development was almost depleted at the landfill. At the present time, there are no large sources of “free” material available, and the landfill operating license requires that the garbage dumped at the landfill be covered at the end of each work day. Thus, soon the Town will need to purchase daily cover material from one or more vendors. The amount of cover material available for use at the landfill will probably run out before 30 June 2007.

Mr. Ramotowski asked if there was any money in the landfill budget for the purchase of cover material. Mr. Webster stated that Pare has estimated the cost of usable cover material to be \$3 to \$4 per ton, but that is probably a low estimate, and the Town may have to pay up to \$8 per ton. Mr. Fernandes asked if any more material might be received from RI-DOT from the work being done on the new Sakonnet River Bridge. Mr. Webster stated that the Town might receive some additional material from the bridge work, especially now that RI-DOT can no longer use the space under the existing bridge as a staging area.

Mr. Webster distributed a hand-out to the Subcommittee members. The hand-out was a draft specification for soils to be purchased and used as daily cover at the landfill. The document addresses the need for testing, and also what would happen if one of more loads of material fail the testing.

Mr. Ramotowski asked if the prices that were quoted for cover material are delivered prices. Mr. Webster replied that any material the Town purchases will be contracted for a delivered price. The deliveries will be made by the contractor’s vehicles, not Town dump trucks.

## **IX: Alternate Cover Material from Patriot**

Mr. Webster reported that he and T. Thies from Pare Engineering went to Patriot’s home site to see the material that they were willing to provide to the Town. Patriot blends several materials together to create the final product. It can include demolition debris, asphalt, concrete, etc., blended into dirt. Patriot indicated that it could deliver up to 100 tons per day to the landfill at no charge to the Town. Mr. Webster stated that the material would need to be tested to verify that it is suitable for use at the landfill. Mr. Thies will be contacting R. Russell of RI-DEM for a formal opinion on the use of the Patriot material at the landfill.

## **X: Date and Time for the Next Meeting**

Chairman Wyman stated that he had been contacted by a Mr. A. Ross, who would like to do a presentation to the Subcommittee on methane gas recovery from landfills. The question is whether or not such a presentation would be useful. Mr. Webster stated that he had spoken with Mr. Ross. The problem is that the Tiverton landfill is too small to make such a recovery process economically

viable. Mr. Webster stated that he and Mr. Ross ran the numbers, and the landfill is only about half the size that it would need to be to generate economically significant amounts of methane gas. Even their smallest plant/unit would not be viable at our landfill.

Mr. Ramotowski asked if the money for the new landfill bulldozer had been retained in the budget for next year. Mr. Webster replied that so far, it had been retained in the budget. The bulldozer that is to be purchased will have a special “waste handling accessory” that will allow it to operate better and more reliably at the landfill. In other words, this will be a special machine that is designed for the rigors of landfill work. It should last longer and cost the Town less for maintenance than the bulldozers currently in use. Judging from the estimated remaining useful lifetime for the landfill, it should be the last machine that the Town needs to purchase for use at the landfill.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Landfill Subcommittee was scheduled for June 20, 2007 at 3:00 PM at the Town Hall.

There being no further business to discuss, the Landfill Subcommittee’s May 15, 2007 regular meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

These minutes were recorded and compiled by T. Ramotowski